



Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this patent application:

Claims 1 to 11 (canceled).

12. (new) An instrument for periodontal treatment, comprising a blade integrally connected to a head which is connectable to a handpiece for imparting vibratory movement to the blade, wherein the blade has a center defining an axis, wherein a plane passing through the axis defines opposing sides of the blade and wherein the blade has an active part distributed along the blade on one of the sides, and an irrigation channel provided in the center of the blade for receiving a liquid, wherein the channel opens out into the active part of the blade for ensuring cleaning of the active part of the instrument during a treatment procedure and a removal of detached particles.

13. (new) The instrument of claim 12 wherein the active part of the blade has a length, and a center along major portions of the length of the active part of the blade, and wherein the channel opens out at the center of the active part of the blade.

14. (new) The instrument of claim 12 wherein the plane is inclined with respect to the axis, wherein the plane defines the active part of the blade and intersects with the channel, and wherein an opening is provided in the channel along the active part of the blade where the plane intersects with the channel.

15. (new) The instrument of claim 14 wherein a surface roughness is provided on opposing sides of the opening of the channel.

16. (new) The instrument of claim 15 wherein the surface roughness is a plurality of notches.

17. (new) The instrument of claim 12 wherein the blade has a curvature in an end of the blade.

18. (new) The instrument of claim 12 wherein the blade has an end which is capable of receiving a curvature applied by a practitioner.

19. (new) The instrument of claim 12 wherein the blade is mounted for articulation on the head, for orienting the active part of the blade with respect to the handpiece.

20. (new) The instrument of claim 19 wherein the blade is mounted by a hinged, ball-and-socket arrangement.

21. (new) The instrument of claim 12 which has an end remote from the active part of the blade, and wherein the end is detachably fixed to the head.

22. (new) The instrument of claim 21 wherein the end of the blade is detachably fixed to the head by a maneuverable bushing, and wherein the blade is integrally connected on the bushing.

23. (new) The instrument of claim 22 wherein the bushing includes an annular groove which, when the bushing is mounted on the head, forms a leak-tight annular chamber for ensuring communication between the irrigation channel of the blade and a delivery channel on the head for receiving a liquid.

24. (new) The instrument of claim 12 wherein the head includes a channel for delivering a liquid which is coupled with the irrigation channel of the blade.

25. (new) The instrument of claim 24 wherein the channel for delivering the liquid has an entry point which is external to the handpiece.

26. (new) The instrument of claim 24 wherein the channel for delivering the liquid has an entry point which is internal to the handpiece.

27. (new) The instrument of claim 12 wherein the instrument is disposable.